

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, May 24, 2012, in the cafeteria of Kickemuit Middle School, 525 Child Street in Warren, RI. The Chairperson, John C. Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:14 PM.

Present: John C. Bento, Chair, Paul Silva, Vice-Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Karen A. Lynch, Secretary, Denise R. Arsenault, Diana B. Campbell, Marjorie J. McBride, Susan Rancourt and John P. Saviano; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Pauline A. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; Leslie J. Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Accolades

Wellness Week

Mrs. Campbell, Chair of the District's Wellness Committee, said there were many, many celebrations during Wellness Week, April 30 to May 4, including tastings, group exercising, and learning about health and wellness and how to make choices for a healthy lifestyle. Mrs. Campbell wished to highlight the fact that Exercise Breaks in the Classroom began with only a few teachers and has grown to be practiced in every classroom; she is proud of all the teachers for putting this into their daily routines. Mrs. Campbell also thanked Chartwells for the wonderful job they have done responding to our requests to get more healthy, more tasty foods in the schools. Citations were presented to a representative of each of the schools who were key in coordinating Wellness Week activities:

Colt Andrews School – Jason Oldham

Guiteras School – Peter Kells

Hugh Cole School – Tracy Lima

Rockwell School – Erin Welchman

Kickemuit Middle School – Laurie Cadman

Mt. Hope High School – T J DelSanto

Mrs. Thies thanked Mrs. Campbell for leading the way in regards to wellness and for keeping us honest with our wellness policy; she also thanked the school-based administrators and staff members, as well as parents; the ACES activity was a great success despite the dreary weather.

Mr. Bento announced that Mr. Saviano received the Kay Award, given to the best School Committee member in the state, at the recent RI Association of School Committee's Annual Meeting; Mr. Saviano was recommended for the Master's Academy for completing one-hundred hours of professional development. Mrs. Thies said Mr. Saviano was speechless when the award was presented to him.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

S2012-17 A-I: PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions of Middle School Principal, Custodian and High School Athletic Director as listed below:

1. Beth S. Hayes Principal – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: July 1, 2012

Reason: To fill a vacancy

(Retirement – M. Carbone)

Funding: Operational Budget

2. Manny Teixeira Custodian - Rockwell

Effective: Immediately

Reason: To fill a vacancy

(Death – G. Shorey/

Transfer – L. Acciardo)

Funding: Operational Budget

3. Christy Houghton Belisle Athletic Director – Mt. Hope High

Effective: July 1, 2012

Reason: To fill a vacancy

(Resignation – B. Penkala)

Funding: Operational Budget

B. ATTENDANCE OFFICER: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to re-appoint the following individual to the position of Attendance Officer as listed below:

1. Manuel T. Vierra Attendance Officer

Effective: July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

Reason: In accordance with the Rhode

Island General Laws Relating to

Education (Ch. 16-19-3)

Funding: Operational Budget

C. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):

1. Paula Rodrigues Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of
the 2011-12 school year, pending
satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

D. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2012-13 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

FALL COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

- 1. Cheerleading (Football) Head Coach Debra Marshall**
- 2. Cheerleading (Football) Asst. Coach Melissa Gendreau**

3. Soccer (Boys) Head Coach Oscar DeLemos
4. Soccer (Boys) Asst. Coach Greg Cirillo
5. Soccer (Boys) Asst. Coach Dennis Matos
6. Soccer (Girls) Head Coach Roy Borges
7. Soccer (Girls) Asst. Coach Kerri Ferreira
8. Tennis (Girls) Head Coach Geoffrey Keegan
9. Volleyball (Girls) Head Coach Warren Rensehausen

HEALTHY HUSKIES WELLNESS CENTER/GYM AREA SUPERVISORS

10. Supervisor (Summer) Roland Rodrigues

E. NON-CERTIFIED SUPPORT STAFF: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to re-appoint the following individuals to the non-certified staff positions listed below for the 2012-13 school year only (pending adequate Federal, State and local funding and contingent upon adequate enrollment and program renewal):

Name Program Assignment

1. Justin Almeida Child Care Intern
2. Michael Almeida Child Care Provider
3. Cole Andrade Child Care Provider
4. Melissa Avery Child Care Provider
5. Lauren Bauer Child Care Provider
6. Samantha Brilhante Child Care Provider
7. Laura Brissette Child Care Provider
8. Lindsey Brissette Child Care Provider

- 9. Laura Callahan Child Care Budget Coordinator/Provider**
- 10. Kevin Calisto Child Care Provider**
- 11. Meghan Callahan Child Care Site Coordinator**
- 12. Shemseddine Chabane Child Care Intern**
- 13. Erica Collamore Child Care Site Coordinator**
- 14. Brittany Conley Child Care Provider**
- 15. Donna Crowell Child Care Provider**
- 16. Nicholas DaSilva Child Care Provider**
- 17. Virginia DePasquale Child Care Provider**
- 18. Kathleen Diehl-Boylan Child Care Site Coordinator**
- 19. Holly Eaton Child Care Provider**
- 20. Brenda Ferreira Child Care Site Coordinator**
- 21. Paula Gabriele Child Care Provider**
- 22. Thomas Hanson Child Care Intern**
- 23. Jennifer Heroux Child Care Provider**
- 24. Emma Kee Child Care Intern**
- 25. Talia King Child Care Provider**
- 26. Paulette Laparle Child Care Provider**
- 27. Rachel Lessing Child Care Provider**
- 28. Andrea Medeiros Child Care Intern**
- 29. Samantha Medeiros Child Care Provider**
- 30. Francine Michelletti Child Care Site Coordinator**
- 31. Heather Morreo Child Care Provider**
- 32. Jason Oldham Child Care Provider**
- 33. Ellie Oliveira Child Care Provider**
- 34. Kevin Oliveira Child Care Provider**

- 35. Rhiannon Palmieri Child Care Intern**
- 36. Alexandra Pappas Child Care Provider**
- 37. Emily Pearce-Spence Child Care Site Coordinator/Bookkeeper**
- 38. Chelsea Rainville Child Care Provider**
- 39. Paula Rodrigues Child Care Provider**
- 40. Jason Santo Summer Music Teacher**
- 41. Meghan Saunders Child Care Provider**
- 42. Kristina Soprano Child Care Provider**
- 43. Amy Sousa Child Care Provider**
- 44. Kate Sweeney Child Care Site Coordinator**
- 45. Ashley Sylvia Child Care Provider**
- 46. Kristina Tomkinson Child Care Provider**
- 47. Alexis Webster Child Care Site Coordinator**
- 48. Ricki Wokoun Child Care Provider**

F. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following application for a certified substitute pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Michael H. Corson Physical Education**

G. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment

requirements:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

1. Deborah A. Young

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

2. Wayne E. Ferrara

H. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for an Elementary Special Educator as follows:

1. Stephanie Breitmaier Special Educator - Rockwell

Effective: May 27, 2012, for 6-8 weeks

Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with

Article 21, Section L1 of the Master

Agreement

I. RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Claudia Alfano from the position of Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Patricia A. Chapman from the position of Mathematics Teacher (On Recall) and Marilyn Pellerin from the position of Secretary as listed below:

1. Claudia Alfano Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent

Effective: June 30, 2012

Reason: Retirement

2. Patricia A. Chapman Mathematics Teacher (On Recall)

Effective: April 11, 2012

Reason: Personal

3. Marilyn Pellerin Secretary – Mt. Hope High

Effective: June 29, 2012

Reason: Retirement

Chairman Bento pulled items A.I. and I.1. for a separate vote.

MOTION: Mr. Silva motioned to approve the remainder of the recommendation; Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation S2012-17, A.1.

MOTION: Mrs. Arsenault motioned to approve; Mr. O'Dell seconded. Mrs. Arsenault commented this could not be a better recommendation. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 8 to 1 with Mrs. McBride opposed.

Mrs. Thies happily acknowledge Beth Hayes as the Principal of Kickemuit Middle School, as Ms. Hayes has all the requisite skills to be the consummate leader and bring Kickemuit to the next level; she has great expectations from Kickemuit under Ms. Hayes' leadership along with a superb staff.

Mr. Bento, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mrs. Hayes for "stepping up to the plate" and wished her the best of luck.

Athletic Director

Mrs. Thies introduced to the Committee the next Athletic Director, Christy Houghton-Belisle, who will take on the role June 30; Ms. Houghton-Belisle spent a good deal of time at Leslie University as an adjunct professor, coach and administrator; she was formerly on the Lady Husky Soccer Team and is welcomed back to the community to give back and share her expertise. Mr. Bento also welcomed Ms. Houghton-Belisle aboard on behalf of the Committee.

Mrs. Arsenault is pleased and impressed with the thoroughness and professionalism Mrs. Thies uses and the manner in which she shares the process with the Committee, providing assurance the recommended candidate is the best person for the job; she is particularly thrilled about Mrs. Hayes and she feels this appointment has made many teachers at Kickemuit happy; she congratulated Mrs. Hayes and Ms. Houghton-Belisle.

Recommendation S2012-17, I.1.

MOTION: Mrs. Arsenault motioned to approve; Mrs. McBride seconded. Several Committee members and Superintendent Thies made very complimentary comments about the performance of Ms. Alfano as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and reluctantly accepted her retirement. The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2012-18: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, adopt new textbooks for two Mt Hope High School classes:

- Science Grades 9–12 — Biology by Miller & Levine; 2010
- A.P. Biology – Campbell Biology AP Edition by Campbell; 2011 9th Edition

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Andrade asked that the recommendation be adjusted to a presentation for this evening and to be presented for a vote at the next meeting in order to follow policy. Dr. Andrade stated the District embarked two years ago on a partnership with the Dana Center along with some nearby districts, through a grant; he commended the high school for being a full-fledged professional learning community under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Koger.

Mr. Koger explained the current textbooks are 10 years old and

outdated; the proposed texts align with standards and utilize the curriculum the Dana Center has proposed. The book comes in two versions, one for the student who has trouble reading and one for the honor student. Three different textbooks were reviewed and this one fits best. Every student will receive a textbook, regardless of IEPs or 504s. It is an initiative of the Dana Center that every student receive the same education using the same resources. Mr. Saviano asked if both sides of the theory of evolution are presented; Mr. Koger responded the teachers present evolution as a theory. Mr. O'Dell requested a copy of the texts to review before voting at the next meeting; he also remarked that two books are being replaced by one; he also asked if there has been any requests for e-books. Mr. Koger confirmed this book replaces two other texts; students have access to the book on line, although access is not always easy; we are a ways away from electronic texts. Mr. Koger further explained that evolution is based on several theories, several theories are presented and both sides of evidence are reviewed. Mr. O'Dell asked if the big bang theory or the multiple bang theory is discussed; Mr. Koger said they sometimes are, as a theory.

Mrs. Campbell asked about the authors; Mr. Koger said Miller & Levine and Campbell are merging. Mrs. Arsenault is pleased with the offering of two levels and that the authors are New Englanders and that the Dana Center professional development came first, also the consideration of standards. Mrs. McBride pointed out that on page 63, changes in Narragansett Bay are referenced, which is not only

relevant to biology but to our own environment; she is very happy with the book. In response to Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Koger said although this book is not being purchased collaboratively with other districts for a better price, we are receiving \$3000 in free student resources; each text costs \$87; other companies wanted over \$100. Mrs. Campbell asked how many students are in AP Biology and what the average AP Biology score is; Mr. Koger said approximately 25 to 30 students and that the high school is working on the scores; he feels the Dana Center is going to change everything and he has not seen growth like this in 25 years. Mr. Koger confirmed for Mrs. Lynch that the students can take these books home; Mrs. Lynch is concerned about the weight when they have to be carried with other texts. Mr. Koger said there are extra books in the classroom that are signed out to students who may have issues; he also works with other teachers who use this book. Students are requested to cover the books. Mr. O'Dell gave a demonstration on how to first open a new book so as not to break the binding. Mr. Bento thanked Mr. Koger for presenting to the Committee and instructed anyone who wants to review the text to give their name to the clerk.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS DISCUSSION

Superintendent Thies explained the Policy Subcommittee discussed the interconnectedness of School Committee goals with the District Strategic Plan and her own goals. The EBEC Board goals development was facilitated by a member of the District Management Council with whom she has made contact to possibly arrange

facilitation of the Committee goals. The members of the Policy Subcommittee committed to sacrificing Saturday, June 16, from 9 AM to 2 PM for goals development. Mr. Bento asked the time be moved to 11 to 4:00. Mrs. McBride will be unable to attend. Mr. O'Dell's postal job prevents his attendance.

PRESENTATION: ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE GROWTH MODEL

Mrs. Thies and Dr. Andrade presented information about expectations for accountability and student growth; it will be attached to the student's profile and to the educator's evaluation as well as the school's profile. Rhode Island is moving toward a broad initiative; it is a personalized approach, very valid but with many implications. Our schools' high performing designation will not change, but classifying will change.

The Rhode Island Approach

- All students will achieve at high levels when:
 - When we have an effective teacher in every classroom and an effective administrator in every school
 - Teachers and school leaders are supported by student-centered systems

Critical Components

Replace statewide AYP measures with school-based AMOs

- Reduce in size from 45 to 20
- Create "super subgroups" by combining ethnic, racial, and economic disaggregations; combine IEP and ELL

- Increase number of AMO targets for suburban districts; decrease number of AMO targets for urban districts
- Replace old “in need of improvement” classification system with new accountability and intervention system
- Look more deeply at individual schools; lateral analysis made more difficult

State-Developed Differentiated Recognition, Accountability and Support

- Measurement: How do we measure school performance?
- Classification: How – and into what categories – do we classify schools based upon their performance?
- Intervention: Once classified, what interventions will be required in the lowest-performing schools?

ESEA FLEXIBILITY DESIGN WEIGHTS

Measure Components Elementary/Middle High School

Absolute Percent Proficient All Students 30 30

Progress to 2017 Target All Students 10 10

Subgroup Performance Gaps against adjusted White Minority and FRL

30

30

IEP + ELL

Percent of Tested Students in Distinction Level All Students 5 5

Growth

All Students

25

0

Minority and FRL

IEP + ELL

HS Graduation Rates All Students 20

HS Scaled Score Change All Students 5

TOTAL 100 100

Total Points Earned by School

- **RED – Priority Schools**
- **BLUE – Focus Schools**
- **GREEN – Reward Schools**
- **GREY – All Other Schools**

Dr. Andrade demonstrated the tool provided by the RI Department of Education:

<http://rigm.ride.ri.gov/growthmodel/index.htm>

This new system balances out the fact that suburban districts did not have enough students to make a group. Kudos go to Hugh Cole for showing high growth by SPED students in math; the resources put into Hugh Cole are resulting in growth. Although NECAP scores declined a little this year, we are still solidly average, showing typical growth. This tool allows us to look at data with a different lens, a

great tool to identify where we need to focus.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Budget

Mr. Bento announced the Budget Subcommittee meeting scheduled for tomorrow night is cancelled. There is a Warren Financial Town Meeting on May 21; a Budget meeting might be scheduled on Wednesday, May 30.

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:54 PM

MOTION: At 8:54 PM Mrs. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Arsenault, motioned to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/c